

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Antibacterial pectocellulose comprising pectocellulose in which inorganic compound antibacterial agents or organic compound antibacterial agents are bound with pectin included in the pectocellulose.
2. (Original) Antibacterial pectocellulose as set forth in claim 1, wherein ionic inorganic compound antibacterial agents or organic compound antibacterial agents are ionically bound to an active group having an ionic bond capacity in pectin included in said pectocellulose.
3. (Original) Antibacterial pectocellulose as set forth in claim 1, wherein said inorganic antibacterial agents are silver, copper, or titanium, or metallic compounds thereof, and said organic antibacterial agents are quaternary ammonium, chitin, or chitosan.
4. (Original) Antibacterial pectocellulose as set forth in claim 1, wherein said pectocellulose is derived from materials selected from the group of Japanese paper including kouzo and mitsumata, cotton, linen, rayon, deccan hemp, and each material thereof.
5. (Original) Antibacterial pectocellulosic fibers composed of antibacterial pectocellulose set forth in claim 1.
6. (Original) Fiber products comprising antibacterial pectocellulosic fibers set forth in claim 5.
7. (Original) Fiber products as set forth in claim 6, wherein said antibacterial pectocellulosic fibers are included alone or are mixed or compounded with other fibers.

8. (Currently Amended) Antibacterial pectocellulosic fibers or pectocellulosic fiber fabrics obtained by treating ~~pectopellulose~~pectocellulosic fibers or pectocellulosic fabrics with at least one chemical substance selected from the group consisting of acids, bases, salts thereof, chelating agents, and a pectin-degrading enzyme to lower the pectin content in pectocellulosic fibers to 1 to 80% by mass with respect to the pectin content before the treatment and then supporting antibacterial agents comprising ionic inorganic compounds or antibacterial agents comprising ionic organic compounds on the treated pectocellulosic fibers or pectocellulosic fiber fabrics.

9. (Original) Pectocellulosic fibers or pectocellulosic fiber fabrics as set forth in claim 8, wherein said pectocellulosic fibers or said pectocellulosic fiber fabrics are composed of cotton or linen.

10. (Original) Pectocellulosic fibers or pectocellulosic fiber fabrics as set forth in claim 8, wherein said acids are phosphoric acid, sulfuric acid or acetic acid, said bases are sodium hydrate, potassium hydrate, or calcium hydrate, said salts are those composed of these acids and bases, and said chelating agents are ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid or nitrotriacetic acid.

11. (Original) Pectocellulosic fibers or pectocellulosic fiber fabrics as set forth in claim 8, wherein said inorganic antibacterial agents are silver, copper, or titanium, or metallic compounds thereof, and said organic antibacterial agents are quaternary ammonium, chitin, or chitosan.

12. (Currently Amended) Method of producing antibacterial pectocellulosic fibers or antibacterial pectocellulosic fiber fabrics obtained by treating ~~pectopellulose~~pectocellulosic fibers or pectocellulosic fiber fabrics with at least one chemical substance selected from the group consisting of an acid, a base, salts thereof, a chelating agent, and a pectin-degrading enzyme to lower the pectin content in pectocellulosic fibers to 1 to 80% by mass with respect to the pectin content before the treatment and then supporting antibacterial agents comprising ionic inorganic compounds or antibacterial agents

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comprising ionic organic compounds on the treated pectocellulosic fibers or pectocellulosic fiber fabrics.

13. (Original) Fiber products comprising pectocellulosic fibers set forth in claim 8.